See also: Cook, Minnie G.; Caldwell + Co.

First Families of Virginia

[Milwaukee, WI]

1920

First Families of Virginia

See Insigna File under First Families

" Cook, Mrs H. L. — General file

" Caldwell Co. " "

Miss Reilly

File in proper place.

DEPOSITED BY

_____

IN THE

Lincoln National Bank

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

_____ 190__

PLEASE LIST EACH CHECK SEPARATELY.

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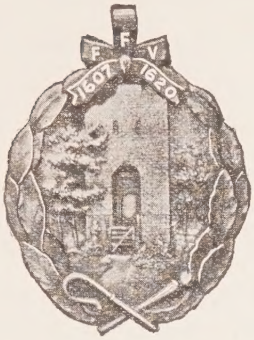
F. F. V.

1607  1620

Order of the
First Families of Virginia

The Order of the First Families of Virginia was founded for the purpose of promoting genealogical, biographical and historical research concerning Virginia during the period when she was the *only* one of the thirteen "original" colonies—1607 to 1620, inclusive; the printing of unpublished documents relating to this part of Virginia's history; and enrolling the names of the descendants of those who were literally, as well as socially, the First Families of Virginia.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Order consists of both male and female descendants of those colonists above the serving class who emigrated to Virginia during 1607-1620; or who were members of the London or Virginia Companies during this time and either they or their ~~children~~ descendants later settled in Virginia.

Membership is by invitation only. A name must be proposed by one member and be endorsed by a second, unless the one proposed is a member of the Colonial Dames of America; Signers of the Declaration of Independence; Sons of the Cincinnati; Daughters of the Cincinnati; or other

organization having like invitation requirements for membership, when the endorsement by a second member of the Order will not be necessary.

GOVERNMENT.

The Order is governed by a Council of eight members, including the officers. The records of the Order are open to all of the members.

FEES.

The payment of twenty dollars on entering the Order, constitutes an *endowed* membership, and entitles the member to the decoration of the Order. The member is exempt from dues and may name a legatee. If, upon the death of a member, the Council is notified and the address of the legatee furnished, an ancestral blank will be sent to be filled out in the name of the legatee. When this is returned completed, together with the enrollment fee of two dollars (the only cost to a legatee), the legatee will be enrolled under his or her own number as a full member; and an acceptance card will be issued, as to new members, which will entitle the legatee—now a regular member—to wear the insignia of the Order bequeathed by the deceased member. The legatee, having become a member, may, in turn, name a legatee. The legatee, must, in every case, be in the direct line of the emigrant ancestor.

SUPPLEMENTARY LINES AND BARS.

Supplementary lines may be added at any time by a payment of ten dollars for each such family recorded. This will entitle the member to an additional ancestral bar and the verification of the family record. When the emigrant husband and wife both fill ancestral requirements and the fact is recorded in the one blank, and no further verification is necessary, an additional bar will be issued for the wife upon the payment of only two dollars.

ANCESTRAL RECORDS.

When their number is sufficient, the ancestral lines recorded by the Order, will be printed for the benefit of the members. The expense will be defrayed by the Order as far as the Treasury will warrant; and the cost to

the members per volume, will be only what is necessary to make up the deficit in covering the cost of publication.

SYMBOLISM OF DECORATION.

The *insignia* of the Order is a lesson in early Virginia history. It is the exact size of the illustration on this folder, and is made of rose gold, reminding us of the dreams of those first colonists who sailed with Christopher Newport in 1607, in anticipation of golden riches.

The wreath of tobacco leaves—the real wealth of the colony.

The bishop's Crosier is symbolical of the church,—which with the colony, was founded in 1607.

The lighted torch—symbol of learning. The first steps toward any institution of learning in America, were taken by the Virginia Company in 1619. The first public library in this country was started the same year by a gift from an ananymous donor, consisting of a *"Mapp of Sir Walter Rawlighes conteyninge a Descripcon of Guiana and with the same fower great books as the gifte unto the Company. Whereof one booke was a treatise of St. Augustine, of the Citty of God translated into English the other three greate Volumes wer the works of Mr. Perkins newlie corrected and amended, wch books the Donor desyred they might be sent to the College in Virginia there to remayne in safftie to the use of the Collegiates hereafter."*

The three loops of the ribbon tying the wreath at the top, serve to bear the initials of the Order, and indicate the *Trinity of the church;* the *three ships* (the *Discoverer,* the *Godspeed,* and the *Susan Constant*) in which the founders of Jamestown sailed to Virginia; and the *three departments* (*Grammar, Philosophy,* and *Divinity*) with which the first real College in Virginia—WILLIAM AND MARY—was started.

The picture framed by the wreath is an exact reproduction of the ruined tower of the church at Jamestown as it appeared before the partial restoration by the Colonial Dames.

The insignia, detached as in the illustration, makes a very handsome watch charm for a gentleman, or a pendant for a lady. Officially, it is worn suspended from a green and gold silk ribbon which is attached to a gold bar bearing the ancestor's name and the year he became identified with

Virginia. The name and number of the member are engraved upon the reverse of the insignia. The whole makes a most attractive decoration.

MEETINGS, ETC.

The fiscal year of the Order ends upon the ~~fourteenth~~ 13th day of May of each year, the anniversary of the first landing at Jamestown, 1607. Annual reports must be prepared by the officers at this time. Meetings may be called from time to time as may seem advisable to the Council.

~~CHAPTERS.~~ Circles

Local ~~Chapters~~ circles of the Order may be formed. Each ~~Chapter~~ circle may make its own By-Laws, and conduct its own affairs along any lines that do not conflict with the rules of the general organization. Annual reports of ~~Chapter~~ circle proceedings must be sent to the Secretary General on the ~~fourteenth~~ 13th day of May of each year.

~~Chapters must be named for some person or place connected with Virginia history during 1607-1620.~~

~~No two Chapters may bear the same name.~~

Any seven members may apply to the Council, through the Secretary General, ..., ~~(stating definitely the Chapter locality, and name)~~ for permission to organize a ~~Chapter;~~ Circle ~~and confirmation of the name chosen~~

~~No member of the Order may be an active member of more than one Chapter at the same time.~~

ORDER OF
FIRST FAMILIES OF VIRGINIA
1607-1620

503 Marshall St,m
Milwaukee,Wisconsin
March 9,1930

Curator,
Numismatic Association,1561
156 Street and Broadway,
New York.

Dear Sir:

A letter of some four years ago from J.E. Caldwell & Co., has just come to light, evidently having been mislaid through press of war work. In it, they say:

" Recently the Curator of the Numismatic Association inquired about the insignia and would be pleased to know the cost, also any other information that could be given in regard to same"

The enclosed leaflet gives general information regarding the insignia- its significance; and the purposes of the organization.

The insignia costs $10.50, including war tax. J.E.Caldwell & Co. are the official jewelers. In their letter, they intimated you might wish to add one of our insignia to your collection. If so, if you will let me know, an order will be furnished you authorizing Caldwell to sell you one. It will be the only instance where one has been sold outside the Order.

Sincerely yours,

President Order of the
First Families of Virginia,1607-20

See Belden about payment

April 9th, 1920.

President,
Order of the First Families of Virginia,
503 Marshall Street,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of March 9th at hand concerning our inquiry about the insignia of the First Families of Virginia. We would very much like to get one of these for our Museum, and would appreciate it if you would send us an authorization on J. E. Caldwell & Company to buy one of these. We have the insignia of nearly all of the patriotic societies and organization of the country on exhibition.

Very respectfully yours,

Curator.

Showed these to Belden
July 21st, 1920